

December 6, 1951

Mr. R. S. Benham
Department of Medicine
950 East 59 Street
Chicago 37, Ill.

Dear Benham:

Thank you for the last group of cultures which arrived in good condition.

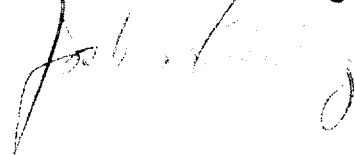
We are reaching the point in this study where I think it would be profitable to suspend the routine screening of new cultures, so as to devote more time to the analysis of the ones we have identified as infertile. There are well over 30 of these now, so that you can see we will already have a formidable task in testing these in all pairwise combinations. If you have any "in inventory" at the moment we will be glad to have them, however.

The job ahead of us will take some time, but I hope we can keep you informed of the conclusions from time to time. If you run across any curiosities, would you keep me in mind, as we can always do a few more screening tests on cultures that are out-of-the-ordinary (for example, something like the urease-positive colis. you sent a while ago).

All of us working on this problem in this laboratory have greatly appreciated the cordial cooperation offered by your staff and yourself, and we thank you for it.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Josh. Lederberg', written in a cursive style.